

RE: MB Docket # 04-233

It has come to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission is considering rule changes that would place a higher priority on Low Power Frequency Modulation stations than on already existing FM Translators. I do not believe such a decision would be in the public interest.

For instance, I listen to a station that is not local to my area, and it would not be available without the translator system, but it might very well not be available in my area if the LPFM system has first dibs on the airwaves. I listen to a listener sponsored/supported station (KLOVE) and have been supporting this service with my own donations for almost 5 years. In my listening area of Southern Oregon, KLOVE is available on 2 frequencies that serve most of the Rogue and Illinois river valleys (88.7 for Grants Pass and Ashland, Oregon as well as 96.7 for Medford and the Rogue Valley). I find the programming on KLOVE to be encouraging and much more positive than many of the public broadcasting and commercial stations in the area. The news is delivered without bias and while bad news is reported, there is often positive news events reported that never get a hearing on other stations/networks.

KLOVE supports a sense of community by reporting local weather conditions for many geographic regions of the United States, and does so with pinpoint accuracy for areas where they are heard. I don't get this information on any of the other national media such as network television, unless I live in one of the major markets like Chicago or Los Angeles. My car has bumper stickers that are an advertisement for KLOVE and list the local frequencies, and I have a sense of unity with others when I see these same stickers, or others from outside my listening area, on other vehicles. I am reminded then that the world is not filled only with doom and gloom as the major networks would seem to want me to believe, based on the items they deem newsworthy, but that there is indeed something positive and encouraging and I'm not the only person who knows where it is to be found. If the station that I support out of my own pocket were to be displaced by some LPFM station, I would be saddened and I expect that I would suffer as a result. In what way? Well, I have been diagnosed with Dysthymia, a depressive disorder, as well as seasonal depression and a couple other mental/emotional difficulties that can be quite debilitating, and I find that listening to KLOVE tends to lessen the severity of my symptoms. I am also confident that I'm not alone in this, as I hear people frequently expressing how much they enjoy the programming and general positive effects of having the station available where they are.

The regional Director for KLOVE has been in contact with my wife and I more than a few times, seeking ways in which the station can contribute locally and partner with local agencies/organizations to help people. My wife and I volunteer at an emergency food pantry and soup kitchen, and this outreach to help the needy has benefited from our relationship with KLOVE. Personally, I can barely imagine that the owner/operator of an LPFM station is going to be eager to donate any time or profits to support the feeding and clothing of the hungry in our area. That simply is not the way people or commercial operations who are "for profit" think.

Ultimately, this is my take on the issue; It is not right nor fair to give priority over existing systems that are functioning, particularly those that are listener supported, to a system that is incompatible, especially for commercial application. There are more important things in this world than the almighty dollar. Please do not be influenced in this decision by lobbyists who's interest is financial gain, rather seriously consider the multitude who depend on translator systems, as they currently exist, for news and entertainment. I have no doubt that many in rural areas would be severely and adversely affected by the loss of a translator, especially if there were no LPFM station put in place in it's stead, because it may not be profitable.